



MANATEE COUNTY
VETERANS COUNCIL

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June Meeting, Thursday, June 16, 2022

1. **Meeting was called to order** at 11:00am by Chairman Edwin Robinson. The meeting was held at the American Legion Post 24.
2. **Invocation:** Chairman Edwin Robinson opened the meeting with prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.
3. **Chairman's Comments:** Chairman Edwin Robinson gave a big thank you to board members for stepping up while he has been working especially Vice Chairman Jim Klocke for running the Memorial Day service.
4. **Guest Speaker:** Newest member Nathan Benderson Park and its representatives, Rickard Jensen and Mirim Ward presented on the Dragon Boat Program and the success of its Veterans Team.
5. **Recognition of Special Guests:** Chairman Edwin Robinson introduced Jamie Gossett from CareerSource as a guest.
6. **Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted by Secretary, Tricia Sadler. Present were 22 people of whom 14 were paid members and 4 officers. Quorum was met.
7. **Minutes:** May's minutes were voted for approval. Richard Blunt made the motion; Roberta Trotell seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating "Aye". The vote was anonymous for approval.
8. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer, Spike Klocke. Chairman Edwin Robinson moved for the Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit.
9. **Primary representative reports:**
Manatee County Veteran Services: Mr. Ruark reported that they have expanded the department which has resulted in hiring a receptionist and five team members. Jack Ruark introduced new staff member in the Veterans services department Nathan Negosa.



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Volunteers of America: Latoya Pendergrass reported that they have 6 beds available at the end of this month. Thank you, Manasota Elks and other organizations, for the food and supply donations for the current residents at Veterans Village. There is a Father's Day luncheon on June 17th. VOA is hiring a part time ILC to assist at the Veterans Village.

Sarasota County Veterans Commission: In person meeting in Venice on June 23rd

USFSM Office of Veterans Success: No report provided.

Turning Points: No report provided.

SCF Student Veterans: No report provided.

Goodwill Veterans Services: No report provided.

JFCS: No report provided.

10. Reports of Standing Committees:

- **Veteran Monument Park:** Vice Chairman Jim Klocke reported that we have to change engravers. Eric's Engraving from Anna Maria Island is the new engraver. Next week engraving will start for a brick and updating the monuments. The price of brick engraving has increased to \$50.00. Don Courtney made a motion to raise the price of bricks to \$75.00. Richard Blunt seconded the motion. All voting members voted for approval by stating "Aye". The vote was anonymous for approval; DAR Manatee Chapter is donating a monument for Revolutionary War Patriots – they working on the paperwork to submit to DAR. The approval process with DAR will take several months.
- **Legislative:** No report provided.

11. Old Business:

- **Memorial Day Ceremony:** Vice Chairman, Jim Klocke, reported approximately 250 people attended. Mr. Klocke extended a thank you to all members that helped make the ceremony a success.

12. New Business:

- **Veterans Day Ceremony:** The plan is to have a parade this Veterans Day with the approval of Mayor Shirley Groover Bryant. Don Courtney as arranged for a planning meeting on July 21 at 2pm in the conference room at Palmetto City Hall. All are welcome to attend. Chairman Robinson established a committee for reviewing submission of Axillary Member of the Year, Civilian Member of the Year, and Veteran Member of the Year. The committee members are Donald Courtney, Jim Klocke, and Gill Ruderman. All submissions guidelines can be



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found on the website. Submissions have a deadline of August 18th, 2022 with vote at the October MCVC meeting. Send all submissions to Vice Chairman, Jim Klocke. Upon the request of committee member Gill Ruderman a hard copy of all approved submissions will be provided at the September MCVC meeting for review.

- **Website Redesign:** Margert Smelser requested that the website have a makeover to be more interactive with the people visiting it. Chairman Robinson established a committee to work on this project. The committee members are Chairman Robinson. Any additional members please contact him.

13. Around the Room:

- St. Vincent de Paul, Tammy Owens, requested resources for a disabled Veteran that requires a motorized Tryke bicycle.
- Easterseals, Tom Delarge, presented information on their Veteran Horsemanship Program. It is in Nokomis every Friday from 9am – 12pm. Horse Therapy Program is 4 sessions and is free of cost to Veterans, first responders, and Mental Health Therapist that work with Veterans.
- MOWW and VVA Chapter 195, Roberta Trotell, announced that their National Convention is this year and is being held in Jacksonville, Florida. For additional information see Roberta.
- Manasota Elks, Spike Klocke, announced they have been awarded a grant of \$6,000 to assist homeless Veterans in permanent housing. She stated \$3,000 is being donated to Veterans Village and the other \$3,000 will go directly to homeless Veterans. Please contact Spike for additional information.

14. Closing Prayer: Vice Chairman Jim Klocke led the closing prayer.

15. Meeting Adjournment: As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned by Vice Chairman Jim Klocke at 11:45pm.

Next Meeting: July 21, 2022 (Thursday) 11:00 am located at American Legion Post 24

Respectfully Submitted, Council Recording Secretary - Tricia Sadler